

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
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R 011736Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2456
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12357

GENEVA ALSO FOR USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, FR, UR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT
IN EUROPE

REF: STATE 135540

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LEUSSE DELIVERED MEMORANDUM
TO SOVIET MFA WHICH WAS APPARENTLY ESSENTIALLY THE SAME
AS THAT DELIVERED IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE (REFTEL).
DE LEUSSE MADE THE FORMAL DEMARCHE ON MAY 26 TO DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER YAKOB MALIK.

2. MALIK'S INITIAL REACTION WAS QUITE NEGATIVE, SOME-
THING THE FRENCH WERE EXPECTING, WE WERE TOLD. MALIK
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COMPLAINED ABOUT CERTAIN POINTS IN THE FRENCH PRESENTA-
TION, BUT INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD EXAMINE THE
PROPOSAL. MALIK'S THREE MAJOR COMPLAINTS INCLUDED
CHARGE THAT THE FRENCH WERE ARBITRARILY AND IN THE SOVIET
VIEW UNJUSTIFIABLY DIVIDING NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL IN
EUROPE FROM NON-NUCLEAR. SECONDLY, HE QUESTIONED THE
PLACE OF MBFR IN THE FRENCH SCHEME OF THINGS. FINALLY,

HE THOUGHT THAT THE FRENCH PROPOSAL MIGHT EXCLUDE THE U.S. AND CANADA WHICH, HE SAID, WAS OBJECTIONABLE TO THE SOVIETS BECAUSE BOTH THESE COUNTRIES HAVE FORCES STATIONED IN EUROPE.

3. A FRENCH EMBOFF CHARACTERIZED MALIK'S ATTITUDE AS "SHARPLY" NEGATIVE, BUT ATTRIBUTED THE EXTRA STING IN HIS WORDS TO MALIK'S PERSONAL STYLE, AS MUCH AS TO THE SOVIET DISLIKE OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS THEMSELVES. FRENCH EMBOFF THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONSIDERABLE DELAY BEFORE A CONSIDERED SOVIET RESPONSE WOULD COME. HE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PROBABLY WAIT TO SEE HOW THE IDEA WAS RECEIVED IN EUROPE AND THE SSOD AND HOW HARD THE FRENCH PUSHED THEIR PROPOSAL BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TACTICS TO TAKE IN OPPOSING THEM. THERE WAS NO DOUBT ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH, HE SAID, THAT THE SOVIETS WILL OPPOSE SUCH A CONFERENCE. MATLOCK

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